

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2015 AT 5:00 PM

Mayor Horne opened the meeting by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Volkert, Hansen, Kittel, Ard, and Jackson.

Members Absent: Alderman Zajkowski

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Hansen moved to adopt the agenda moving the 2016 Budget discussion after the Police Lieutenant Discussion and City Library and Commons Site Discussion, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

**Police Lieutenant Discussion & Recommendation**

Mike Darrow explained that he and Kari Kraft completed an analysis of keeping the lieutenant position as it currently is versus having a sergeant/detective position. Their recommendation was if the Council chooses to substantially change the job description, a formal evaluation process is followed including a human resource review, group evaluation, Finance Committee approval and Council approval. Considerable discussion followed. Marty Jensen, Hudson Police Chief, stated that due to budget cuts a few years ago he lost his lieutenant position and has been trying to get the position back ever since. The Hudson City Council is considering adding that position right now. Craig Yehlik stated that he currently is a detective and has been filling in for the lieutenant position and it is very difficult to do both the duties of the lieutenant and the duties of a detective. Alderman Hansen moved to fill the lieutenant position at \$32.99 per hour, seconded by Alderman Kittel. After more discussion, Alderman Volkert moved to table this issue. The motion failed for lack of a second. On voting on the main motion, Alderman Volkert, Ard and Jackson voted no and Alderman Hansen and Kittel voted yes. Alderman Ard moved to approve the lieutenant position at \$34.80 per hour pending review of the job description, seconded by Alderman Kittel. Alderman Hansen, Jackson, and Volkert voted no. Alderman Ard and Kittel voted yes. Alderman Kittel moved to approve the lieutenant position at \$33.90 per hour. Motion failed for lack of a second. Alderman Hansen moved to hire the lieutenant at 33.90 pending job description rewrite, seconded by Alderman Kittel. Alderman Hansen and Kittel voted yes. Alderman Ard, Jackson, and Volkert voted no. Alderman Hansen moved to table discussion until the work session on November 30, 2015, seconded by Alderman Ard. Alderman Ard, Jackson, Volkert, and Hansen voted yes. Alderman Kittel voted no.

**City Library and Commons Site Discussion**

Kim Hennings, Library Director, explained that staff was directed to brainstorm other library sites. The School Board has a meeting on November 16 and is supposed to make a decision on the commons site. Staff looked at all City owned land and came up with three locations: the current location on East First Street, the land at GG and 140<sup>th</sup> Street, or a lot on Richmond Way that is owned by the City. If the commons site falls through, we need to decide where to put the library. There is \$140,000 in impact fees that has to be used by July of 2015. The Library Board still endorses the current site. This item will be on the November work session for further discussion.

**2016 Budget – Draft 1 Review**

Mike Darrow gave a review of the first draft of the budget. Sean Lentz explained where the City is at as far as levy limits. Currently the City has some flexibility. The first draft includes a 3% increase in the levy. Considerable discussion followed. The assessed value of the City increased by .79% in the past year

so Mayor Horne would like to keep any increase in the budget to that .79% so the City millrate would remain the same as last year. The Finance Committee will review the budget on November 2, 2015; a second draft will be available on November 9, 2015 for Council to review; a third draft will be ready for November 23, 2015; and the week of December 7, 2015 will be the budget hearing.

#### **Community Farm Discussion**

The City now owns 20 acres just outside of town on Wall Street. There are heavy restrictions on the property for what it can be used for. One idea would be to use it as a community farm. It could be a community project. This could be a cooperative plan with the School District. This item will be discussed again at the work session in November.

#### **Loyalty Day Discussion**

We hosted the Loyalty Day Parade in April of 2016. Alderman Ard requested permission to apply to have the parade in New Richmond again in 2016. Alderman Ard moved to begin the process to have the Loyalty Day Parade in New Richmond again in 2016, seconded by Jackson and carried.

#### **Communications and Miscellaneous**

Jim Vanderwyst told the Council about a used fire truck he has been looking at. This will be discussed at the Fire Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

Craig Yehlik stated that there will be an event at the New Richmond High School for parents of kids ages pre-k through fifth grade on October 27, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.. The police department and Sherriff's department are hosting the event that will include a speaker talking about sensitive issues and how to talk to your kids about those issues. There will also be a K-9 demonstration and other fun activities.

#### **Closed Session**

Alderman Ard moved to go into Closed Session for Consideration of moving into closed session pursuant to sec. 19.85(1)(c) and (f), Stats., to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data and the preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems of an employee over which the City has jurisdiction and the discussion in public would likely have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of that employee and deliberating or negotiating and/or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

#### **Open Session**

No action taken

Alderman Ard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Hansen and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Tanya Reigel  
City Clerk